

CLARE RURAL DISTRICT, 1895.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk.

Twenty-second Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Clare Rural District of the Risbridge Union, during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1895.

(FIRST ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CLARE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.)

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board)

Population (1881) 10411, (1891), 9834. (Males 4909, Females 4925.)

Area, 39520 acres. Number of persons per acre, 0.2.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2213. Number of persons per Inhabited House, 4.4.

Geological formation chalk covered on the higher ground with Boulder Clay, and in the valleys with gravel and alluvium. The elevation above Sea-level varies from 140 to 400 feet.

Rateable Value £39376

Until the passing of the Local Government Act 1894 this District formed part of the Rural Sanitary District of the Risbridge Union, which was situate partly within the Administrative County of Suffolk and partly within the Administrative County of Essex. Since the passing of the Local Government Act the portion in each Administrative County has formed a separate Rural District in accordance with Section 24 (5) of that Act.

I. BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was **254** (145 boys and 109 girls) equivalent to a birth-rate of **25.8** per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates in this district during the past seven years were :—

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Births	289	265	282	278	261	238	254
Birth-rate	29.3	26.9	28.6	28.2	26.5	24.2	25.8

II. DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered in this district was 139, (74 males and 65 females), to which 2 deaths occurring outside the district have to be added, and 1 death in the workhouse belonging to Haverhill subtracted leaving a total of **140** deaths (74 males and 66 females) belonging to the district, equivalent to a death-rate of **14.2** per thousand of the 1891 population. The deaths and death-rates during the past seven years were :—

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Deaths registered	139	150	208	221	152	139	139
Deaths belonging to the district	133	139	199	217	144	131	140
Death-rate	13.5	14.1	20.2	22.0	14.6	13.3	14.2

Infantile Mortality during 1895 was in the proportion of **126** deaths among infants under 1 year of age to a thousand births. The proportions during the previous six years were :— 1894, 113; 1893, 92; 1892, 129; 1891, 124; 1890, 113; 1889, 89.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases caused **6** deaths equal to **0.6** per thousand of the population. The Zymotic deaths and death-rates during the past seven years were :—

Zymotic deaths.	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria*.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Total deaths.	Death-rate.
1889	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	5	0.5
1890	—	—	2	1	3	1	—	7	0.7
1891	—	—	8	—	1	1	1	11	1.1
1892	—	1	22	1	—	1	1	26	2.6
1893	—	2	5	—	—	—	2	9	0.9
1894	—	—	4	1	—	9	—	14	1.4
1895	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	6	0.6

*Including Membranous Croup (2 in 1891, 1 in 1892, and 1 in 1894.)

Deaths from all other causes belonging to this district were **133** in number equal to **13.5** per thousand of the 1891 population. The deaths belonging to this district caused by the principal diseases and death-rates during the past seven years were :—

Deaths from	Erysipelas.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis or Consumption.	Bronchitis. Pleurisy. Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injury.	Other Diseases.	Cancer (Included)	Influenza (Included)	Total Deaths.	Death-rate.
1889	—	1	10	20	4	4	89	(7)	(—)	128	13.0
1890	—	—	7	25	16	2	82	(2)	(—)	132	13.4
1891	—	1	15	28	18	3	123	(5)	(—)	188	19.1
1892	1	—	13	47	12	6	112	(9)	(—)	191	19.4
1893	2	—	15	27	8	3	80	(12)	(7)	135	13.7
1894	—	2	9	22	14	2	68	(7)	(4)	117	11.8
1895	1	—	15	17	13	5	83	(10)	(2)	134	13.6

The death-rate from Consumption during 1895 in this district was 1.5 per thousand of the 1891 population as against a mean of 2.8 in the previous six years.

III. THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT. The total number of cases notified in this district during 1895 was 42, or 4.2 per thousand of the population. The act has been compulsory in this district since May, 1892.

Cases notified.	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membr. Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Total cases.	Per thousand population (1891.)
1892*	—	130	92	2	4	—	3	6	237	24.1
1893	—	133	102	—	2	—	2	18	257	26.1
1894	—	11	22	1	4	1	—	17	56	5.6
1895	—	22	3	—	4	—	—	13	42	4.2

*Including 97 cases, January to May 1892 before the Notification Act was compulsory, (Scarlet fever 37, Diphtheria 58, Membr. Croup 1, Enteric fever 1.

Smallpox. No case occurred in this district during the year.

Scarlet Fever or Searlatina. There were 22 cases (none fatal) of Scarlet Fever notified in this district during the year, as against 11 in 1894, and 133 in 1893. The outbreaks during 1895 were at:—

Little Thurlow	3 cases in one family living near the school, in March.
Clare	4 cases in three families, 1 in March and 3 in April.
Kedington	1 case at the Workhouse in June, immediately isolated.
Poslingford	14 cases (6 in one family), 13 of the cases in August and 1 in September.

In each outbreak the usual precautions were taken. Notices were served at each infected house and the children from infected families were excluded from attending school, and the houses were afterwards disinfected by the Inspector. At Poslingford it was found necessary to close the schools from August 2nd to October 21st, including the harvest holidays.

Diphtheria. Only 3 cases were notified in this district during 1895, 1 at Wickhambrook in February, 1 at Clare in March, and 1 at Withersfield in August. The case at Clare was a lad in a travelling show-van. The van was detained until, after repeated bacteriological investigation, the lad was declared to be free from infection and quite safe. The van was then disinfected and allowed to depart.

Typhoid or Enteric Fever. Only 4 cases were notified during the year, 1 at Wickhambrook in July; 1 (fatal) at Babel Green, Hundon, in September; 1 Station Road, Clare, in September; and 1 Cavendish Road, Clare, in December. In each case the usual precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Erysipelas. There were 13 cases of Erysipelas notified in this district during the year, 6 in February, 3 in April, 1 in August, 1 in October, 1 in November, and 1 in December. The cases occurred 4 in the Workhouse (Kedington,) 3 at Withersfield, 2 at Stoke, 1 at Stansfield, 1 at Clare, 1 at Wickhambrook, and 1 at Great Bradley.

IV. WATER SUPPLY. Last year I reported that a new well had been sunk on Little Thurlow Green, since then the well has been completed and a strong brass lever pump has been fixed, with copper rods and tin-lined copper suction and delivery tubes, and the surface of the ground has been paved with blue Staffordshire bricks, and enclosed with an iron railing. There is now an abundant supply of water from the deep chalk springs. On March 1st, 1895, the depth of water in the well had risen to 44 feet and the water-line was 61 feet from the surface, or 233 feet above sea-level.

During the year a complaint was made to the Clare District Council by the Withersfield Parish Council that the working of the two public pumps in that village was not satisfactory. The matter was referred to a committee of the Parish Council and certain alterations are being made in the working of the pump near the White Horse Inn, a lever handle being substituted for the former wheel gearing.

The water from the new well which was bored in 1894 at Snow Hill, Clare, contains a considerable quantity of iron. The water is quite clear when drawn but afterwards a deposit is formed which was supposed to be derived from the iron bore tubes, but in the opinion of the Public Analyst to whom a sample of the water was sent the deposit is caused by the action of the air on a carbouate of iron natural to the water, and can be removed by filtration or subsidence.

A new public well has been dug and bored at Upper Street, Stansfield. The well was dug to a depth of 101½ feet, all in boulder clay, then bored 23 feet in boulder clay and 12 feet in chalk. Total depth dug and bored 136½ feet. At this depth an abundant supply of water was obtained. The bore-hole is lined with copper tubes, tin-lined inside and outside. The suction pipe, which is ten feet down the bore tube is also of tin-lined copper, a strong brass pump with copper rods and tin-lined copper delivery pipe has been fixed with lever handle.

A sample of the water has been sent to the Public Analyst who reported the water to be unpolluted and fit for drinking purposes. An application has been made to the Local Government Board for their sanction to a loan of £200 for a similar well at Assington Green, where there is at present no pure water.

V. SEWERAGE. The Sewerage of Clare has been under the consideration of the District Council during the year. The existing drains were originally constructed as road drains and not for sewerage purposes, but the District Council has now agreed to take them over, and hereafter to keep them in repair and make such alterations as may from time to time be found necessary for the sanitary requirements of Clare.

The District Council has also had under consideration a complaint of the pollution of the river Stour at Clare, where it forms the boundary of the Clare District in the County of Suffolk and the Bumpstead District in Essex, so that it is in two Districts and in two Counties. It is stated that the river needs cleaning out.

VI. HOUSES AND COTTAGES. Representations have been made by me under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, that 10 houses (4 at Clare and 6 in the parish of Wickhambrook) were unfit for human habitation and notices have been served on the owners to repair the houses.

VII. FACTORIES AND TRADES. The Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Dairies, and Cow-sheds have been inspected as usual.

VIII. SANITARY INSPECTIONS:—REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES. Mr. Louis Littleton the Inspector for this District, jointly with the Bumpstead Rural District, Essex, was unfortunately killed on November 12th, 1895, in the execution of his duty, whilst inspecting a new public well at Helions Bumpstead, Essex, owing to an accumulation in the well of carbonic acid gas. From that time to the end of the year the duties of the office were performed by Mr. Fred Chappell, Inspector for the Linton Rural District, Cambs; and since then Mr. James Edward Walker has been appointed Inspector of Nuisances for this District, and for the Bumpstead Rural District, Essex, in the Risbridge Union. The number of notices issued for the parishes in this district by Mr. Littleton during the year up to the time of his death was 44, but these do not represent all the nuisances abated during the year, as Mr. Littleton frequently had nuisances abated by letter or verbal request, without formal notice. The formal notices issued in the several parishes are given in the table at the end of this report.

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS. None.

The Tabular Statements, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality within the district are appended to this report. Also a Tabular Statement according to a form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

WILLIAM ARMISTEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1895, in the CLARE Rural District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes distinguishing Deaths of Children under five years of age.																							
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upward		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping cough	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	Rheumatic fever	Ague	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pleurisy & Pneumonia	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other diseases	Total		
Parishes in Claro Rural District.	128	30	9	8	4	37	40	Under 5 ... 5 upwards	1	1	7	..	1	29	39	
Workhouse	11	2	1	1	7	Under 5 ... 5 upwards	1	1	2	
Total Deaths Registered.	139	32	9	8	5	38	47	Under 5 ... 5 upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	7	..	1	30	41
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																																
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	2	1	1	Under 5 ... 5 upwards	1	1	2	
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	1	1	Under 5 ... 5 upwards	1	1	
Total belonging to the district.	140	32	9	8	4	39	48												1		1	1	3		15	17	13	5	83	140		

(B) TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Clare Rural District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, public institutions being shown as separate Localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											Number of such Cases removed from their homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.										
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas
Parishes in Clare Rural District.	9702	9702	249	Under 5 .. 5 upwards ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	No Isolation Hospital in this District.										
Workhouse.	132	132	5	Under 5 .. 5 upwards ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4											
Totals	9834	9834	254	Under 5 .. 5 upwards	1	1											

(C) POPULATION, DEATHS, BIRTHS, and NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, in each Parish 1895.

Parishes and Population. (Census, 1891.)		Deaths not belonging to district	Deaths in Workhouse	Deaths outside district	Tables corresponding to Table (A) Mortality.																					Including Influenza	Including Cancer	Births.	Table (B) Sickness, New Cases of										
					At subjoined Ages.							From subjoined Causes.																											
					(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
					Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-65 years	65 upwards	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membr. group	Enteric F.	Continued F.	Puerperal F.	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea	Rheumatic F.	Phthisis	Bronchitis, &c.	Heart Disease				Injuries	Other diseases									
Barnardiston	181	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Great Bradley	317	..	..	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	9	..	..	..	..	1	..
Little Bradley	75	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Clare	1657	..	..	..	22	7	..	1	..	4	10	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	3	14	2	2	33	..	4	1	..	2	..	1	..	..			
Cowlinge	592	..	..	..	6	2	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	4	1	1	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denston	242	..	1	..	3	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hundon	338	..	2	..	8	1	1	..	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	1	2	2	1	26	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Kedington	724	..	1	..	6	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5	1	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" Workhouse	132	1	..	..	11	2	..	1	1	7	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Poslingford	341	..	..	..	9	2	2	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	5	..	9	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stansfield	410	..	..	..	5	1	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	2	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Stoke	658	..	1	1	9	..	1	..	5	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	7	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Stradishall	362	..	1	..	5	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
G. Thurlow	383	..	..	1	7	4	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	4	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
L. Thurlow	379	..	..	..	5	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	7	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whixoe	109	..	..	..	4	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wickhambrook	1218	..	3	..	23	4	1	2	2	11	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	2	2	13	..	32	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..		
Withersfield	634	..	1	..	7	3	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	4	..	15	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
G. Wrating	362	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
L. Wrating	220	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	6	..	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	9834	110	2	139	32	9	8	5	38	47	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	3	..	15	16	17	5	84	210	254	..	22	2	4	..	..	1	..	

Deduct not belonging 1 death in Workhouse (F22 acute laryngitis) belonging to Haverhill.
Add 2 deaths outside belonging to district { 1 in Haverhill (F29 pneumonia) belonging to Stoke, and
1 Bartlow Hamlet, Linton Union (M67 heart disease) belonging to Thurlow.

SUBJECTS.	Barnardiston	Bradley (Great)	Bradley (Little)	Clare	Cowlinge	Denston	Hundon	Kedington *	Poslingford	Stansfield	Stoke-by-Clare	Stradishall	Thurlow (Great)	Thurlow (Little)	Whixoe	Wickhambrook	Withersfield	Wrattling (Great)	Wrattling (Little)	Workhouse	TOTAL.
Rateable value in £'s.	727	1498	595	5334	2513	1336	3857	2942	1813	1815	2689	1239	2086	1494	713	4118	2561	1104	859		39876†
Acreage	1123	2340	972	2235	3071	1200	4551	2406	2439	2021	2430	1404	2055	1413	562	4337	2498	1348	936		39520†
Population 1891	181	317	75	1657	592	242	838	724	341	410	658	362	383	379	109	1218	634	362	220	132	9834
„ 1881	212	359	95	1707	678	266	885	827	364	407	734	382	387	338	118	1318	575	391	239	129	10411
Inhabited Houses 1891	40	74	17	389	138	55	201	169	76	97	153	74	81	85	24	287	132	79	41	1	2213
I. BIRTHS, 1895	6	9	3	33	19	5	26	12	9	10	16	12	13	7	3	32	15	13	6	5	254
„ Rate per 1000	33.1	28.3	40.0	19.9	32.2	26.6	31.2	16.5	26.3	24.3	24.1	33.1	31.3	34.3	64.2	26.2	23.6	41.4	27.2	37.8	25.8
II. DEATHS, 1895																					
„ Zymotic	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	6
„ Rate per 1000	..	..	..	0.6	..	..	3.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.5	7.5	0.6
„ From Other Causes	1	3	1	21	6	3	5	6	9	5	9	5	7	5	4	23	7	2	1	10	133
„ Rate per 1000	5.5	9.4	13.3	12.6	11.3	12.3	5.9	8.2	26.3	12.1	13.6	13.8	18.2	13.1	36.6	18.7	11.0	5.5	4.5	75.7	13.5
„ Total Deaths	1	3	1	22	6	3	8	6	9	5	9	5	7	5	4	23	7	2	2	11	139
„ Rate per 1000	5.5	9.4	13.3	13.2	11.3	12.3	9.5	8.2	26.3	12.1	13.6	13.8	18.2	13.1	36.6	18.7	11.0	5.5	9.0	83.3	14.1
III. INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, Number of Cases.																					
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup (Membranous)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	3
Erysipelas	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	4	13
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	22
Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Typhus and other Fevers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
„ Total	..	1	..	8	..	..	1	..	14	1	2	..	..	3	..	3	4	..	..	5	42
IV. WATER SUPPLY, (Public wells and pumps)	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	..	1	..	3	..	..	2	..	..	..	16
VIII. SANITARY INSPECTION, (Notices issued)	3	1	1	4	..	1	3	..	4	1	2	3	..	2	..	11	8	..	..	..	44

*Kedington, excluding Workhouse but including 773 acres and 109 population in Esscx.

†Totals include Monks Risbridge, a tract of land without houses or population.—Rateable Value £88, Acreage 129.

CLARE
RURAL DISTRICT,
IN THE
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF
WEST SUFFOLK.

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TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
FOR
1895,
BY
WILLIAM ARMISTEAD, M.B., F.C.S.
(First Annual Report to the Clare Rural District Council.)

E. R. COE, PRINTER, CLARE, SUFFOLK.

The Urban District Council of Cockington,

Medical Officer's Office, 2 Chelston Place,

Cockington, Feb. 4th 1896

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen.


I am pleased to be able to state that the experience for the past year within District has been on the whole very satisfactory.

The mortality during the year has been extremely low, only 25 deaths having occurred, yielding a death rate of 12.5 per 1000, against 11.5 per 1000 in 1894.

None of these deaths were due to any of the diseases notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, there being 4 from Phthisis, 5 from diseases of the Respiratory organs, 4 from heart disease, 2 from influenza, 1 from injury and 9 from other diseases.

There have been 29 births registered during the year, yielding a birth rate of 14.5 per 1000, against 21 per 1000 in 1894.

As regards the Sanitary condition of the District, I consider that it is on the whole satisfactory. Mr Cowling, the Sanitary Inspector, reports that he has tested the drains of more than 80 of the inhabited houses during the year, & that with the exception of 2 or 3, they required attention of some kind, the usual defects being, either insufficient or faulty ventilation of the Drains, leaky Drains running into the houses (I may say that these Drains are now prohibited in new houses) & the connection of the down-rain pipes with the Drains. In all these cases the defects have been remedied so that I think I may say that there has been considerable Sanitary improvement during the year.



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The owners of 21 inhabited houses have received the "Habitation" certificate.

Twenty five new houses have been inspected & passed for occupation & plans for 16 houses have been approved of.

The Bakehouses and Slaughter House have been inspected & the Police visited the retail milk shops in August, samples of milk being taken & sent to the Public Analyst, but no adulteration was detected.

A Special Committee has been appointed to consider the Infectious Diseases Hospital question, & I hope very soon they will be able to help the Council to come to some decision on this subject.

I need hardly point out, how important this question is, situated as we are in immediate proximity to a large town, with the probability of arising in its epidemics, should any arise without being able to arrest the spread of the disease by means of an Infectious Diseases Hospital. No doubt it might be urged, that the one or two cases of infectious disease we have had, have not spread. It does not follow however that we shall always be equally fortunate, & I think the Council would be very unwise if it neglected to take every precaution, to keep up the reputation of Lockington as being one of the healthiest Districts in the West of England.

I remain Mr Chairman & Gentlemen
Your obedient Servant.

H. de R. Morgan

M. A. M. R. C. S. L. R. C. P.
Medical Officer of Health

